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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAM-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 SCCT-02 SAB-01 /103 W
---------- 020450
R 071300Z MAR 74
FM USINT DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 165
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR
SUBJECT: GROMYKO VISIT

1. SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO LEFT DAMASCUS ON MARCH 7 AFTER A TWO DAY VISIT, HAVING ARRIVED ON MARCH 5 FROM CAIRO. ALTHOUGH LOCAL NEWS MEDIA GAVE ADEQUATE COVERAGE TO THE VISIT, MANY LOCAL OBSERVERS OPINED TO ME THAT IT WAS SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THAT GIVEN TO SECRETARY KISSINGER, POINT-INT OUT PICTURES WERE PLACED LOWER ON THE FRONT PAGES AND STORIES ON BOTH TV AND RADIO WERE SOMEWHAT BRIEFER. IN ANY EVENT, AS IN THE CASE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ACCOMPANYING THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD HANDLING OF THE NEWS STORIES, WHICH SIMPLY SAID THAT THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND GROMYKO WAS TO "COMPLETE PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS" HELD BETWEEN THE TWO MEN DURING GROMYKO'S VISIT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY
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CONCERNING "THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND

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BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE SOVIET UNION."

2. AT A SOVIET RECEPTION FOR GROMYKO ON MARCH 6, SEVERAL OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES REMARKED ON THE PAUCITY OF SYRIANS IN ATTENDANCE, OTHER THAN THE LARGE NUMBER OF WHAT WERE OBVIOUSLY SYRIAN SECURITY AGENTS.

3. THE DAMASCUS RADIO CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT MADE BY GROMYKO AT THE AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AT 1:15 LOCAL TIME.

4. "WE LEAVE THE CAPITAL OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC WITH A FEELING OF COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH PRESIDANT ASAD, PREMIER AYOUBI AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. THE PURPOSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS TO ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE REALIZATION OF ARAB AIMS CONCERNING COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL AS WELL AS THE GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SY, UR, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE
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